

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1 – 12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Re: Claim 1

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an infrared sensor comprising:

an output node being a node at which a first terminal of the series capacitor element, a first terminal of the reference capacitor element and a first terminal of the infrared-detecting capacitor element are connected to one another, wherein:

a potential of the output node is brought to a reference potential by applying a predetermined voltage between a second terminal of the series capacitor element and a second terminal of the reference capacitor element;

a potential of the output node is brought to a detection potential by applying the predetermined voltage between the second terminal of the series capacitor element and a second terminal of the infrared-detecting capacitor element; and

the intensity of infrared light is output as a potential difference between the reference potential and the detection potential.

Re: Claim 4

The prior art of record also fails to teach an infrared sensor array comprising a plurality of infrared sensors arranged in a two-dimensional matrix pattern, wherein each infrared sensor include:

an output node being a node at which a first terminal of the series capacitor element, a first terminal of the reference capacitor element and a first terminal of the infrared- detecting capacitor element are connected to one another, wherein:

a potential of the output node is brought to a reference potential by applying a predetermined voltage between a second terminal of the series capacitor element and a second terminal of the reference capacitor element;

a potential of the output node is brought to a detection potential by applying the predetermined voltage between the second terminal of the series capacitor element and a second terminal of the infrared-detecting capacitor element; and

the intensity of infrared light is output as a potential difference between the reference potential and the detection potential.

Re: Claim 12

The prior art of record also fails to teach an infrared sensor array comprising:

each infrared sensor includes an infrared-detecting capacitor element whose capacitance value varies depending on an intensity of infrared light

incident on the element, and a selection switch whose first terminal is connected to a first terminal of the infrared-detecting capacitor element; and

second terminals of the selection switches included in the infrared sensors that are arranged along the same column of the matrix pattern all share the same series capacitor element.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Akagawa et al. (US 5,757,008 A), Kalnitsky et al. (US 2001/0021384 A1), three of Hanson (US Pat. No. 4,745,278A, 4,792,681 A, and 4,902,895 A), Funaki et al. (US 2003/0113783 A1), Soch et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 5,324,944 A), and Sauer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,965,886 A), were reviewed upon examining this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kiho Kim whose telephone number is (571)270-1628. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-2402. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2876

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K.K./

/Kimberly D Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 4176